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OFFICE OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS

NOV 4 1949

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR POLICY COORDINATION
SUBJECT: Albanian Operation - Fate of VALUABLE Teams
in Albania

1. Reference is made to our recent memorandum on the same subject.

2. We are now in receipt of information that the following six Albanians reported to the Greek Army in the Pogoni area on 27 October 1949:

- a. Aslan Jemai (presumably Xhemal Asllanas), from Luftinia (near Tepelene), leader of the group.
- b. Jafer Ali (possibly Arif Hafferri), from Sasai (near Tepelene).
- c. Balun Senai, from Golemi.
- d. Aki Gamba (presumably Haki Gaba), from Lazarat.
- e. Anko Dacuti (presumably Ago Dauti), from Palaiovali.
- f. Bardouli Berlesi (presumably Bardhul Derveshi), from Lazarat.

3. It was learned from the above that they were recruited about two months ago from a camp at Bari, Italy, by Abas Ermeni and Vasil Andoni. They were then taken to Malta, where they were trained (the last two as W/T operators) by six instructors under a British Colonel "Smaj" (read "Smiley").

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4. On the night of 6 October 1949, according to their story, the six above-named Albanians were disembarked on the Albanian coast at a point north of Vlone near the mouth of the Apos river. Before they were landed another group of five Albanians, destined for Kolonje, was disembarked at the same place. This group included the following:

- a. Sefer Luarase, possibly identical with Sefer Mugies.
- b. Perparim Ali.
- c. Petri Butka.
- d. Sami Barla, possibly identical with Sami Bardho.
- e. Sami Mandji, presumably identical with Zeni Mance.

5. The above group, under the leadership of Luarase, had left Malta on 13 or 15 September 1949 on a fast boat and was supposed to land in the Himare region where the Matuka and Lepenica groups had landed. However, the Luarase group was informed by radio that the Matuka and Lepenica groups had been ambushed and accordingly returned to Malta, setting out again three weeks later to be landed north of Vlone.

6. Both the Jemal and Luarase groups proceeded to the Tepelene area and separated at the "region of three eggs" (sic), the former proceeding toward Gjinokaster and the latter going to Kolonje. Large-scale searching operations by the Albanian authorities forced the Jemal group to stop for five days in the Gjinokaster-Kurvalash region. After that they decided to escape to Greece in accordance with the instructions which they had received from the British, who had directed them to ask for the Aliens' Center at Iannina, where they were to state their identities.

7. Members of the Jemal group stated that they had been unable to make radio contact with their base despite repeated attempts. They expressed the opinion that contact was prevented by the surrounding mountains. They stated that they had the possibility of making contact with the base station only, and not with any other group. Before fleeing from Albania, they hid their W/T set in the Lazarat region. With regard to their cryptographic system, they said that they replaced each letter of the alphabet by a two-digit number, and not by a three-digit number as in the case of the cryptographic system described by the previous group.

- 2 -

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8. It was learned that, before 20 September 1949, a four-member group under Ali Trebova had been sent into the Berat region. In addition, a group was sent into the Korce region under Mustafa Kusa (or Duzar) Alihat (presumably identical with Mustafa Salihans). Both of these groups were landed at the mouth of the Sameni River, in the Lushnja-Fier region. After completing its work in the Berat area, the Trebova group was to rejoin the Korce group.

9. The Jemal group stated that they had nothing to do with Ethem Caku and that Caku was sent by Verlaci. They reviled Verlaci and said that they could settle their differences with him and Caku only with arms in their hands. They said they know nothing about Lepenica's having been instructed to meet Caku and give him certain instructions.

10. It will be seen that the names appearing in this report, given as transliterated from the Greek, for the most part correspond exactly or very closely with the names of certain of the 30 Albanian agents recruited by the British; in the case of the others, it may be that they have given pseudonyms, as was done by two of the first four of these Albanians who were brought to our attention and who were described in the memorandum in reference.

11. On the basis of information available to date, it would appear that, at least as far as three separate groups are concerned, there was only one radio contact with the British. Under the circumstances it is a little difficult for us to understand the British to have told you about their being in communication with all the remaining groups with the exception of the one which had fled to Greece.

12. The information contained in this memorandum is exclusively for OPC headquarters; it is urgently requested that no portion of it be disseminated to your field representatives or to the British without prior clearance with OSO.

13. We shall welcome any additional information which you may be able to give us to fill in our gaps and to serve as a check on our source.

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Assistant Director
Special Operations

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